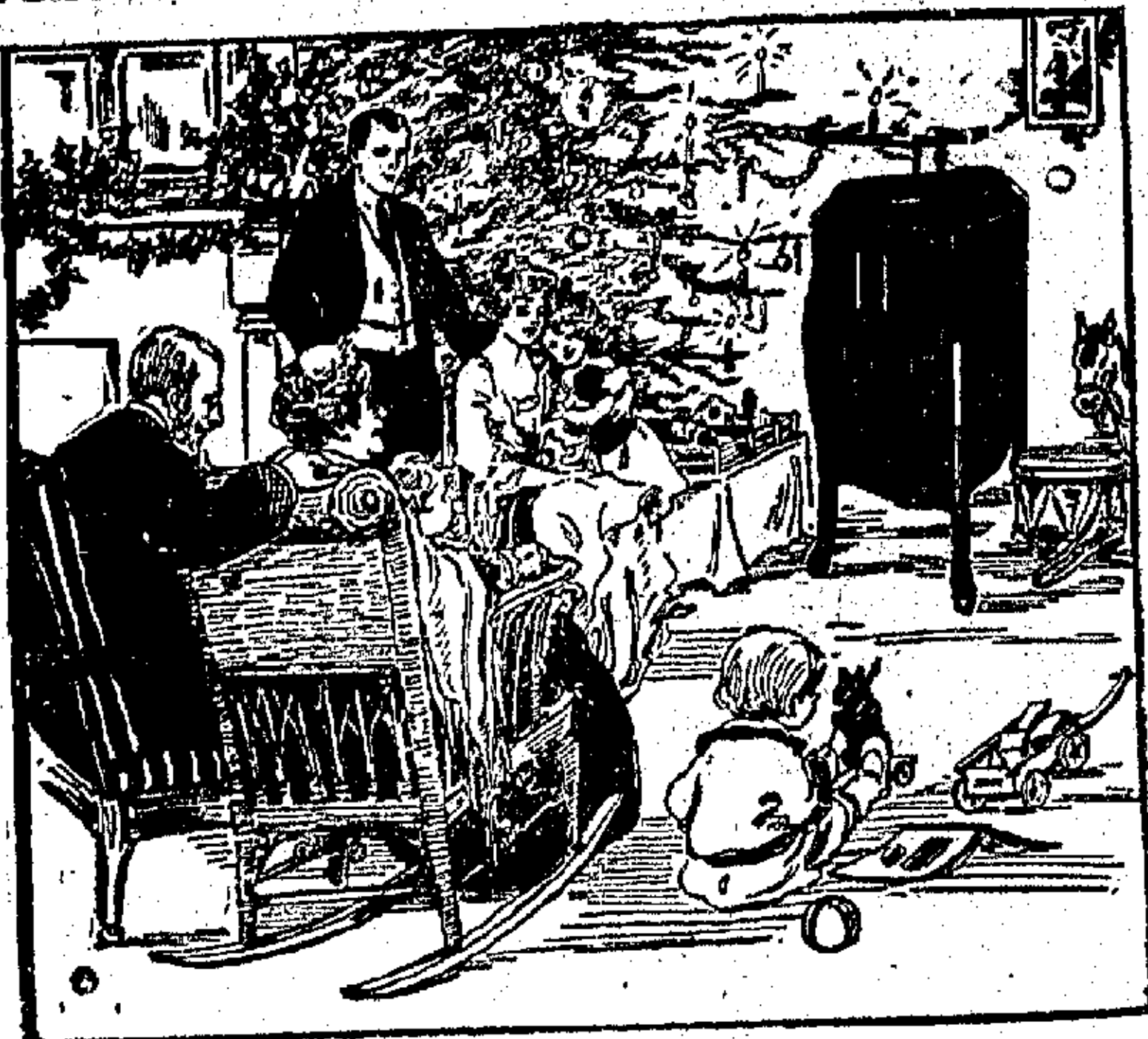


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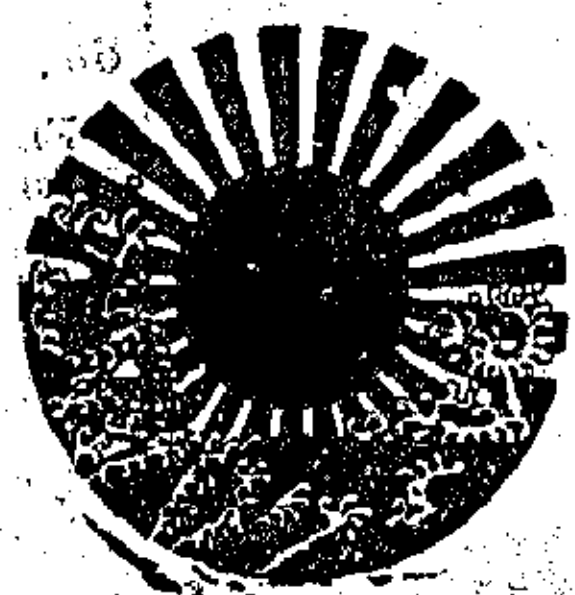
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A YOUNG ENGINEER with a good mechanical training for a Local Factory.
Apply—
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[1447]

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ENGINEER, Br., abetainer, for Harbour or Shop. Apply in own writing with copy ref., stating age and salary required to—
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BY Old-Established British Firm on Shamen, thoroughly GOOD SUN-DRIES EXPORT MAN; only experienced man with unimpeachable references will be considered.
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[1235]

"CENTRAL ASIA."
LECTURE BY CAPTAIN PELLIOT, M.C., LL.D.

In the Ballroom of Government House last evening Captain Pelliot (Military Cross), on whom Hongkong University conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. at its recent Congregation, delivered a lecture on "Central Asia" as the meeting place of Eastern and Western Civilisation. The lecture, which was under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, was well-attended. H.E. the Governor, Sir Francis Henry May, presided, and was supported by the lecturer and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.

His Excellency, in opening the proceedings, said that, to those who were present at the conferment of degrees at Hongkong University last week, Captain Pelliot required no introduction. For the information of those who were not at that gathering he might say that Capt. Pelliot was an officer of the famous corps of Field Artillery of their gallant Allies in France. (App.) They had heard a great deal about the "75's" in this war. Capt. Pelliot had just informed him that he underwent his first instruction in the work of the Field Artillery in the year that the "75's" were brought out. He had served on the staff both at the Western front and in Gallipoli, and, fortunately for us, he was now in Hongkong. (App.) He had been 3½ years continuously in Turkestan and was recognised the world-over as a most distinguished authority on the archaeology of Central Asia. (App.)

Captain Pelliot, who was well-received, defined the area on the globe's surface which was included in the term "Central Asia." With the aid of a map he delineated its boundaries and described its main topographical and geographical features. The name was, in a restricted sense, generally applied to Chinese Turkestan, a province which was now under the authority of China. It was practically surrounded by ridges and hills and mountains, which in some parts was depressed. To penetrate to that table-land was not easy, as the means of access, which were chiefly passes, were not numerous, and these were difficult to negotiate, being frequently blocked with snow. The great drawback to any permanent establishment in Central Asia was the lack of water. It was only when the snow had fallen heavily on the mountains during winter and began to melt, that anything like a good supply of water could be had, and the inhabitants by artificial irrigation managed to cultivate the land, a large part of which was of the nature of an oasis. Although such a big country, there were only some fourteen hundred thousand inhabitants. It was a more or less Turkish-speaking population. They were a very easy-going people, very peaceful, and imbued to a certain extent with Turkish fatalism and fanaticism. The present condition of the territory was first revealed to the world twenty years ago by Russian travellers, who saw indications that led to the belief that in earlier times the inhabitants were an advanced people. Unfortunately these travellers devoted most of their time to geographical exploration and took no notice of the antiquities of the country, although it was rich in ruins and remains of a past history of great interest. It was only in 1881, when Col. Barr brought back particulars about the area, that the interest of Oriental scholars in it was aroused. Since then, expeditions from nearly all the Western nations had visited it, and collected evidence, in the shape of manuscripts and pictures, which had enabled them to piece together, in some degree, the history and archaeology of this interesting place and people. Along with Sir Aurel Stein he (the lecturer) visited it, and was able to secure a considerable number of manuscripts and paintings, which were of some value, and which contained internal evidence of the racial and other features of the history of the country. From these and other evidences it was perfectly clear that it had been influenced in language, literature, religion and art, by the constant intercourse that had taken place between it and its neighbours all round. Greece, Persia, India, and Turkey had all a hand in the formation of the ideals and religion of the people as the centuries rolled on. Many of the statues, frescoes and paintings which had been found—in a remarkably good state of preservation owing to the dry climate—bore unmistakable traces of the Greek

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

COMPANY REPORT.
CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING CO., LTD.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd., was held in London on the 19th inst., when the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th June last was submitted.

This stated that the net result of the year's transactions showed a balance to the credit of Profit and Loss Account of £275,377, made up as follows:—

Proportion of Kailan Mining Administration's Profits, plus	£195,145
China Interest	10,000
Interest in Europe	4,000
Agency Fees	50
Sundry Receipts	99,159
Balance brought forward	£308,004

DEDUCT:

Expenses in Europe	£2,871
Directors' Fees	4,200
Income Tax	25,507
Exchange	49
	33,627

Leaving a Net Balance of £275,377

This the Directors recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

Interim Dividend 5 per cent. paid 15th May, 1916, absorbed	£50,000
Final Dividend 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year)	£50,000
Balance carried forward, subject to provision for Excess Profits duty	£175,377
	£275,377

LANADRON RUBBER ESTATES.

The directors of the Lanadron Rubber Estates, Ltd., announce that it has been the custom of this company to pay an interim dividend at the end of November, but in consequence of the claims of the Treasury under the excess profits duty it is impossible to follow this custom on the present occasion. The company incurred the bulk of its development expenses during the pre-war years, and as the Commissioners contend that the profits of the pre-war years for the purposes of this Act are not the actual profits earned by the company in those years, but the profits after deduction of the development expenditure deducted for income-tax purposes, under what is known as the Vallambrosa decision, the company's pre-war standard of profits as computed by the Commissioners is abnormally low. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have assessed the company's liability to excess-profit duty at £28,880 for the year 1914 and £31,249 for the year 1915, making a total of £60,129 to be provided. From last year's profits a sum of £28,000 was reserved to meet the tax for the years 1914 and 1915, but it will be seen that even this large sum proves to be insufficient by about £32,129. In addition to this immediate liability the directors will have to provide for the still unknown liability under the tax for the current year, as well as for the year's capital expenditure on the estate. Under these circumstances, and pending the result of an appeal which has been lodged against the Commissioners' method of assessment, the directors, much to their regret, do not feel justified at the present time in declaring an interim dividend.

form in art. The discoveries made in the interior, generally speaking, showed that this people were far more advanced in civilisation than their present state would lead one to suppose. It was not till the thirteenth or fourteenth century that the Chinese came on the scene, as the result of reports by some Mongolian travellers. The lecturer afterwards dealt at length with the various religious influences brought to bear on the people by the incursions of these different races, including Buddhism, Jardaism, Christianity and other less known religions. In conclusion, the lecturer said the East had received from the West more than it had given, and in religion, science, and art China was much more indebted to the West than she was usually believed to be. The West received silk from China. It was very often said the compass came from China, but that was not the case. The art of printing was known much earlier in the East than in the West, but all the efforts to trace the first attempt at printing to China had proved so many failures. Printing had been evolved spontaneously in the West, and there was nothing to show that it was invented in China. Paper was a purely Chinese invention, which reached the West through some Chinese prisoners teaching the Muslims the art, and from them it spread to Europe. The lecturer afterwards illustrated his remarks by a large number of lantern views. His Excellency proposed vote of thanks to the lecturer, and said he had never listened to an Odd Volume lecture of more absorbing interest. It had been very kind of him, during his short stay and in the midst of so many occupations, to find time to prepare and give them such a fine lecture, and they were all exceedingly grateful to him. (Applause.)

The Hon. Mr. Pollock proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding and giving the use of the Ballroom for the lecture. He also proposed a similar compliment to Mr. Noble, electrician, of the University, for the great assistance he had given in the matter of the lantern illustrations. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

H.K.P.R. "WINTER BISLEY." THE TEAMS.

The Shamen Defence Corps will be unable to send down a team for this competition. Their place has been taken by a team from one of His Majesty's ships in port.

The teams, in the order in which they will fire, are as follows:—

- 1.—R.G.A.—Captain Taylor, 2nd-Lieut. Wilkinson, C.S.M. Heath, Master Gunner Martin.
- 2.—H.S.L.—(Team not yet submitted).
- 3.—H.K. Police (European). Inspector Grant, Sgt. Grimmit, Sgt. Pitt, Sgt. Boulton.
- 4.—Hongkong Police Reserve—Assistant Supt. Franks, Chief Inspector Mason, Chief Inspector Sirdar Khan, Trooper Relf.
- 5.—R.E.—Corporal Grimes, Q.M.S. Williams, Q.M.S. Black, Sergeant Coxon.
- 6.—H.M.S.—Col. Sgt. Taylor, Loc. Sgt. Eyles, Loc. Cpl. Moyse, Loc. Cpl. Roberts.
- 7.—European Warders—G. Gipson, A. Calvert, S. Shirvington, W. Gast.
- 8.—74th Punjabis—Jemadar Mehr Singh, 769 Havildar Nand Singh, 1959 Naik Baz Khan, 1043 Septy. Kalu.
- 9.—Staff and Departments—S. S. M. Harrow, A.S.C. Armer, S. Sgt. Dufield, A.O.C. Staff-Sgt. Denn, A.P.C., Loc. Cpl. Shute, A.O.C.
- 10.—H.M.S. Tamar—C.P.O. J. Cree, P.O. Aggett, S.P.O. Leach, Ldg. Signaller Botley.
- 11.—H.K. Volunteer Corps—Capt. Murray Scott, Lt. Danby, Sgt. Bradbury, Bdr. Heath.
- 12.—H.K. Volunteer Reserve—(Team not yet submitted).
- 13.—H.K.S.B.R.G.A.—2nd-Lieut. Harris, R.G.A., Havildar Wilayat Khan, Havildar Mangal Singh, Havildar Kishan Singh.
- 14.—Naval Yard Police—Sgt. Marriott, Sgt. Benson, Sgt. Titmas, P.-e. Lockhart.
- 15.—H.K. Police (Indian)—Sgt. 23 Nand Singh, Sgt. 35 Surian Singh, P.-e. 103 Jhu Khan, P.-e. 339 Gelta Singh.
- 16.—18th Infantry—Subadar, Mahab Khan, Jemadar Mizamuddin Khan, Havildar Mir Aulahi Ali, Havildar Fateh Muhi.
- 17.—Royal Marines—Loc. Sgt. Howth, Pte. Martin, Pte. Kelly, Pte. Cook.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

STANDING ORDERS.
The words "by Section Commanders," appearing in S. O. 120 (b), page 53, are to be deleted.

DEFAULTERS.
The order issued to men awarded D.D. to attend at Central Station on Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, are hereby cancelled. Warning Officers will see that this is noted by defaulters.

SPORTS NIGHT.
The Police Reserve will hold another Sports Night at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, January 6th. The Band will attend.
(Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN,
D.S.P. (R.).

THE WAR TO END WAR.
MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

From the standpoint of some of our literary saints and prophets who when the present war broke out regarded it in the light of a crusade which was to render war impossible in the future, there is a bitter irony in the feverish and gigantic preparations that have since been made by many neutral States to get themselves ready for every possible contingency. Sweden and Holland have both increased their field effectives by something like 50 per cent. above their pre-war standards. America is trebling her naval strength and multiplying heavy batteries and tanks, and now following upon the new craze for efficiency among all these States which might conceivably be drawn into the present vortex, comes the news that Spain, the one European neutral whom we should have thought could have held herself utterly aloof from the contest, thanks to her geographical detachment, has decided to maintain an army of 1,000,000 during the next five years.

Now Spain's moral peace establishment provides for, roughly, 160,000, and in view of the penalty of her exchequer one may well wonder that motives may have impelled her Government to subject her taxpayers to so enormous an additional burden. But for King Alfonso's known sympathy with the country and France and Senor Maura's recent pro-Ally utterance the avowed partiality of the Spanish General Staff for German militarism might have induced me to lay stress on Major Moratti's curious hint the other day as to Spain's chances against "Gib" and to draw the conclusion that Spain believes that the present campaign may still prove a very protracted one and that at a certain moment the offer of a fresh army of 1,000,000 men to the Allies might result in the satisfaction of some of her colonial ambitions. We can only wait and see.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CHINESE ARMY.

The Chinese Government has decided to begin by first restricting the military strength in eight provinces, namely:—Yunnan to retain two divisions and one mixed brigade at a yearly outlay of \$4,150,000; Kwangsi; Kweichow and Chikiang to retain each one division and one mixed brigade at a yearly cost of \$2,400,000 each; Szechuan and Kwangtung to retain each three divisions at a yearly cost of \$5,250,000 each; and Hunan and Shensi to retain each two divisions at a yearly expenditure of \$3,700,000 each.

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

2 NEW HOUSES now Building in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation on 1st February, 1917. For rent and other particulars apply to—

H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 Des Vœux Road.
[1451]

TO LET.

NO. 1, CANTON VILLAS, Kowloon.
A HOUSE in Knutsford Terrace.
Apply—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd.
[1824]

TO LET.

NO. 42, ELGIN STREET.
Apply to—
PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING.
[1825]

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

FURNISHED, 3, Stewart Terrace.
Apply—
H. E. POLLOCK,
Princes' Buildings.
[1219]

TO LET.

A HOUSE, at Observatory Villas, Kowloon. With Tennis Court.
Apply—
ARRATON V. APCAR & Co.,
14, Des Vœux Road Central.
[1215]

TO LET.

FURNISHED, "EWO MESS," No. 8, THE PEAK.
Apply, Property Office.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.
[1085]

TO LET.

GODOWN in Duddell Street. Light and airy Offices overlooking Statue Square. Moderate rent.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
"H."
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1840]

TO LET.

From 1st May.
OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Buildings.
Apply to—
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
[618]

TO LET.

OFFICES on 1st Floor, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, at present in the occupation of The China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
Apply to—
CHINA FIRE INSURANCE Co., Ltd.
[622]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.
OFFICES in King's and York Buildings.
HOUSES in Upper Gardens, Conduit Road.
HOUSES in Broadway and Morston Terrace.
No. 21, WONG NEI CHONG ROAD.
HOUSES on Shamen, Canton.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd.
[32]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.
TO LET OR FOR SALE.
KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 59,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[1371]

TO LET.

NO. 5, MOUNTAIN VIEW, PEAK.
"GLENIFFER," 6, Hankow Road, Kowloon.
No. 3, CAMERON VILLAS, No. 63, TEN PEAK.
FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE at Mount Kellott. Furnished for 5 or 6 months.
No. 25, SEELBY STREET.
No. 12, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE, SHOP.
No. 3, CAMERON VILLAS, 63, PEAK.
KELLET CREST, 63, PEAK.
"HARTING," South Road, Kowloon.
No. 25, BELLIOS TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road.
TWO GODOWNS, in Duddell Street.
No. 2, DES VŒUX VILLAS, 51, PEAK (Unfurnished).
No. 56, THE PEAK (CAMERON VILLAS).
Apply to—
LINSTEAD & DAVIS,
3rd Floor, Alexandra Building.
[35]

G. R.

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.
Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

[77]

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR ON HONGKONG MEN AND THE WAR.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held yesterday at the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—
His Excellency the Governor, Sir FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.
His Excellency Major-General F. VENTRIS (General Officer Commanding Troops in China).
Hon. Mr. CLAUD SEVERN (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Mr. J. H. KEMP (Attorney-General).
Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. E. R. HALLIFAX (Secretary for Chinese Affairs).
Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. C. McI. MESSER (Captain Superintendent of Police).
Hon. Mr. Wai YUK, C.M.G.
Hon. Mr. E. POLLOCK, K.C.
Hon. Mr. E. SHELIM.
Hon. Mr. C. E. ANTON.
Hon. Mr. LAU CHU PAU.
Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK.
Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Council).

THE GOVERNOR'S PROTEST.

His Excellency said:—Gentlemen, before I proceed with the Orders of the Day, I wish to say a few words about a matter which has caused me and others in the Colony extreme annoyance. I refer to certain anonymous letters in the public Press commenting upon the attitude of Britons in this Colony in the matter of their duty to their country. For example, a letter was recently published in which the writer accused members of the local armed forces of the Colony of taking refuge in the uniform of the Hongkong Volunteers or of the Special Police Reserve, being unwilling to do their duty to their King and country. This is an ignorant and mischievous statement for which there is not a shadow of foundation. The policy of this Government has been to grant facilities to every man who can be spared from this Colony to go to the front, and to organise the remainder as members of the local armed forces, or in other capacities in work connected with the war. The number and efficiency of our local armed forces has made it possible to release a large portion of the regular garrison for service elsewhere. In carrying this policy into effect it has been my unpleasant duty to refuse the applications of scores of men to leave the Colony to go to the front, and I have no hesitation in saying that all those members of the armed forces in the Colony who are medically fit would volunteer for the front to-morrow if they were allowed to go. (Applause.) I trust that these ignorant criticisms will cease. If any persons resident in the Colony, or visiting it—and I suspect the criticisms emanate from visitors who are ignorant of the facts—have any heart-searchings on the subject of Hongkong's attitude towards the war, I trust that they will come direct to me or to the Colonial Secretary. We are always accessible and always ready to give every enlightenment. (Applause.)

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton, who succeeds the Hon. Mr. D. Landale, took the oath of allegiance as a member of the Council.

KOWLOON PETITION.

Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK—I beg leave to lay upon the table a petition addressed to your Excellency by the ratepayers of Kowloon in connection with the joining up of Nathan and Coronation Roads, Kowloon. In 1911 a vote of \$20,000 was made with this definite purpose in view, though up to this time the obstructing hill between these two roads remains. The ratepayers urge in arguments—which are so fully laid out in this petition—that it is unnecessary, and it would be undesirable, for me to add to them—that this hill should be removed, as part of the scheme for a road going from Kowloon into the hinterland, during the present year as part of the purposes of the Budget. I have carefully studied all the arguments put forward, especially those relating to the water mains, and I feel sure the petition will receive the indulgent sympathy of your Excellency, and if possible, that what is asked for will be carried out.

GRANT TO CHINESE DISPENSARIES.

The Colonial Secretary proposed—that it is desirable that the sums of \$2,000 inserted in the Estimates for the years 1916 and 1917, under the headings "Miscellaneous Services, Grants in aid of other Institutions, \$2,000 for Chinese Plague Hospitals, be applied for the general purposes of the Chinese Public Dispensaries, at the discretion of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Wai YUK seconded, and this was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The Colonial Secretary, by command of H.E. the Governor, laid upon the table the quarterly return of excesses on sub-heads met by savings under heads of expenditure for the third quarter of 1916.

H.E. the Governor then resumed his seat, and
The Colonial Secretary remarked:—This being, presumably, the last meeting of the Council during the current year, I have to report that Financial Minutes 30 to 58 have been considered by the Finance Committee, and agreed to, and I move that they be adopted.
The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and this motion was approved.
His Excellency:—Gentlemen, this is the last meeting of the current year, and all I can do is to wish you a more prosperous year next year than this year has been.
Council then rose.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee followed, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

PUBLIC WORKS.

39.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Buildings, Police Station, Lok Ma Chau.

The CHAIRMAN.—The amount expended in 1915 was \$22,251, and then there was an additional sum of \$2,540, making a total of \$24,791. The total cost of the station and the boat-shed will be \$26,151, and the estimated cost was \$25,600, and the extra cost necessitates this vote. The boat-shed site had to be excavated out of the soft mud on the banks of the river.

The vote was agreed to.
41.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) in aid of the following votes:—

Public Works, Recurrent.	
Hongkong, Miscellaneous, Dredging	2,800
Kowloon, Lighting, Electric Lighting	700
Total	\$ 3,500

49.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of twelve thousand one hundred and fifty dollars (\$12,150) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—
Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong, Water Works, Maintenance of City and Hill District, \$12,000
Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Miscellaneous, Boundary Stones 150
Total \$12,150

50.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$139,500) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—
Hongkong—Buildings.
Quarters for Subordinate Officers, Happy Valley \$ 6,000
Latrine Accommodation at Kennedy Town 1,800
Miscellaneous 1,700
Water Works.
Tyam Tuk Scheme, Second Section 130,000
Total \$139,500

The CHAIRMAN.—The amount was reduced in the estimates for the current year by \$4,000, from \$12,000 to \$8,000, and the receipts from the dredging of sewer and outfalls has fallen from \$3,703 to \$117 during the year. The supplementary vote of \$2,800 is required. New electric lights have been instituted in Kowloon. The amount of \$12,000 has been incurred at the Tyam reserve, where the banks were washed away and had to be rebuilt. The \$150 has been caused by the many sales of land and the necessity for erecting boundary walls. The item of \$6,000, for quarters, is a re-vote. A number of new houses has been built at Kennedy Town, and this necessitates the erection of a latrine. The amount of \$1,700 was due to alterations in connection with the annex to the Government offices, to accommodate the staff of the Public Works Department. The item of \$130,000 is due to the greater progress which has been made with the work at Tyam Tuk than had been anticipated.

The votes were agreed to.
47.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600) in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Buildings, Police Station, Castle Peak.
The CHAIRMAN.—This is for a temporary station which has to be built at Castle Peak. The residents in the neighbourhood, which has developed very rapidly, urge that the number of armed robberies taking place in that district denote that greater protection is required. It is proposed to build a temporary station at a cost of \$1,400, and a sum of \$1,200 is required for a telephone connecting the place with Ping-shan.

The vote was agreed to.
48.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450) in aid of the Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Miscellaneous, Deep Bay Buoying Channel.
The CHAIRMAN.—This vote is for providing a new system of buoys and moorings. It is a very important channel for the police launches.

The vote was agreed to.
57.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Miscellaneous, Dredging off Kowloon Point.
The Director of Public Works.—The cost has just exceeded the estimated sum, and this extra amount is required to complete the work. The dredger had to work longer than was anticipated, and it was not in a suitable condition for carrying out the work. Recently, for example, the dredger had to dredge a cargo of stone which had been deposited by some junk sunk during a typhoon. It is impossible to accurately ascertain the condition of the bottom of the sea, and elevations were found in some places that were not supposed to be there.
The vote was agreed to.

58.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Communications, Roads, General Works.
The CHAIRMAN.—This sum is required to pay for improvements recently effected in the roads at Kennedy Town, where a large number of Chinese houses have been erected. As they are erected the Government are responsible for the making up of the roads.

The vote was agreed to.

POLICE AND PRISON.

45.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—
Police and Prison Departments.
Police and Prison Charges.
Clothing and Shoes for Staff \$ 500
Fuel and Soap 200
Gratuities to Prisoners for Industrial Labour 100
Total \$ 800

The CHAIRMAN.—These items are due to the increased cost of materials. The last one is also due to the increased cost in the work performed.

Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK.—I think we should have an explanation of the last item. It seems a most extraordinary thing for prisoners to be paid for their work.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.—It is the usual thing. Certain prisoners, when they go out, are entitled to a certain sum. It is a sum which is given to men of good conduct.

Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK.—I was unaware that prisoners were paid anything at all for work done. It seems rather extraordinary to me.

The CHAIRMAN.—The hon. member has no doubt visited the gaol and seen the prisoners at work.

Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK.—Yes, I have seen the work being done, but my impression was that it was part of the prisoners' discipline, and not that they were paid for it.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.—It is the custom in gaols to give a little sum, as many of the convicts, when they come out, are absolutely penniless.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is an old system.
Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK.—All right, sir. I was merely asking for the sake of information.

The vote was agreed to.
55.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) in aid of the vote Police and Prison Department C.—Prison, Other Charges, Light.

The CHAIRMAN.—This is in connection with the lighting of the warders' quarters, and the extra cost of the remaining installation of gas.

The vote was agreed to.
MISCELLANEOUS.
42.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of eleven thousand four hundred and twenty dollars (\$11,420) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—

Miscellaneous Services.	
Printing and Binding:—	
Blue Book	\$ 50
Civil Service List	70
Government Gazette	300
Miscellaneous Papers	1,000
Ordinance, Regulations and Reports	1,000
Stationery	9,000
Total	\$11,420

The CHAIRMAN.—These are due entirely to the increased cost of paper. Every effort has been made to keep down expenses in stationery. It is impossible to get the mass of paper required from England, and we had to go to India for it, and the result was a greatly increased cost.

The vote was agreed to.
51.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of fifty dollars (\$50) in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services, Bonuses for Interpreters and Translators.

The CHAIRMAN.—This has been occasioned by the new system of bonuses to interpreters who pass examinations. Two of the men at the Supreme Court, the interpreter and the translator, won bonuses of \$450 each, and this sum is required to make up that amount.

The vote was agreed to.
58.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and five thousand one hundred dollars (\$105,100) in aid of Miscellaneous Services, Coal.

The CHAIRMAN.—This is for coal which has been bought in Japan for next year. It was advisable to take the opportunity of purchasing coal at a lower price than was anticipated in the future and it was necessary to provide the money before the end of this year. The coal was bought at a very favourable price and we have been paying the cost of the coal as each cargo arrived. It is proposed to carry out the same process next year.

The vote was agreed to.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.
40.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of twelve thousand one hundred and ninety-five dollars (\$12,195) in aid of the following votes:—

A.—Working Expenses.	
Locomotive, Carriage, and Wagon Expenses, Other Charges.	
11a.—Running Expenses in connection with cleaning Carriages and Wagons.	
(2) Running Stores, Carriages and Wagons	\$ 900
11b.—Fuel, (1) Coal	10,520
VI.—Repairs and Renewals of Vehicles.	
(3) Goods Vehicles, (a) Wages	500
Fanning, Branch Line, Locomotive, Carriage, and Wagon Expenses, Other Charges.	
Coal	325
Running Repairs, Locomotive	250
Total	\$12,195

54.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) in aid of the vote Kowloon-Canton Railway, A.—Working Expenses, Traffic Expenses, Personal Emoluments, (1) Telephone Staff—(a) Wages, Linemen.

The CHAIRMAN.—Both these financial minutes relate to the Kowloon-Canton railway. A sum of \$3,000 appears in the estimates for the current year for the first item, which was a reduced sum, the amount asked for having been \$3,578. The manager of the railway did his utmost to keep below the vote, but he finds that it is impossible to perform the work which he had to do except at a cost of \$400 more than was provided in the estimates, and he estimates that up to the end of the year he will require a sum of \$500 more. The work has been done under contract, and although he reduced these items as much as he could, he has not been able to keep within the estimates. The cost of coal is much higher and the next item, \$10,520, is required for the extra cost. The item of \$500, for renewals and repairs has been necessitated by the putting of very necessary new roofs on wagons. The vote for the Fanning branch line is due to the extra cost of coal. The vote of \$200 is a small addition to the cost of the working expenses, telephone staff and the wages of linemen. The manager estimates that the increase is likely to continue, and that \$200 will cover the extra cost.

Both votes were agreed to.
43.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of four thousand and seventy-five dollars (\$4,075) in aid of the vote Kowloon-Canton Railway, B.—Expenses of Construction, VIII.—Stations and Buildings, (a) Buildings and Fixtures.

The CHAIRMAN.—This item is caused by the running shed at Hung Hom, which will cost \$200, and also for certain repairs executed in the drivers' quarters, which will cost \$1,100. The total amount required is set out in the minute.

The vote was agreed to.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.
33.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) in aid of the vote Judicial and Legal Departments, C.—District Officer, Other Charges, Southern District, Transport.

The CHAIRMAN.—This small item is due entirely to the launch, and the increased cost of coal.

The vote was agreed to.
44.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—

Judicial and Legal Departments.	
D.—Attorney-General:—	
Personal Emoluments, Duty	
Pay of a temporary Assistant	\$ 500
Other Charges, Incidental Expenses	150
Total	\$ 650

The CHAIRMAN.—The Attorney-General had additional assistance in his department, and there was no duty pay available for the officer, and a sum of \$500 had to be provided for duty pay. The \$150 was for furniture for the office of the assistant.

The vote was agreed to.

EDUCATION.
48.—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of three hundred and thirty-five dollars (\$335) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—

Education, Other Charges.	
Director of Education, Incidental Expenses	\$ 55
Director of Education, Transport	150
Queen's College, Incidental Expenses	100
Saiyungpun School, Electric Fans and Lights	30
Total	\$ 335

The CHAIRMAN.—These small sums are required for the Education Department. The Director of Education underestimated his vote for incidentals. The inspectors have been visiting schools more frequently than hitherto. There have also been extensions in the Queen's College reference library. The supply of electric light to Saiyungpun School was cut down this year, but it has not proved quite sufficient.

The vote was agreed to.

HARBOUR-MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.
52.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of twenty-five thousand eight hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$25,825) in aid of the following votes, viz.:—

Special Expenditure.	
Repairing and overhauling the Steam Tender Stanley	\$23,250
Installation of Wireless Apparatus on board the Steam Tender Stanley	2,575
Total	\$25,825

The CHAIRMAN.—The launch was found to be in a very bad state, and it has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired. A wireless apparatus has also been installed on the Stanley, which will prove very useful for communicating with distant outlying parts of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. SHELIM.—This is a rather big item.
The CHAIRMAN.—The cost was cut down. The work was done by Tai Koo, and the estimate was reduced by about \$1,500. The Government Marine Surveyor reports that the Stanley had been practically gutted, and that as a result of the repairs the value of the Stanley has been increased by 100 per cent. He had no hesitation in saying that the money had been well spent.

The vote was agreed to.

POST OFFICE.
53.—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of six hundred and sixty dollars (\$660) in aid of the vote Post Office, Special Expenditure, Parcel Office—Fittings.

The CHAIRMAN.—A sum of \$610 was put in the estimates for electric plant, but it is impossible to go on with this work until the telephone lines have been laid underground. The Postmaster-General had also informed us that special fittings were required for the parcels office, owing to the shipping companies only taking small parcels. This had resulted in the Post Office having to handle an enormously increased number of parcels.

The vote was agreed to.

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THE WAR.

THE PREMIER'S GREAT SPEECH:

PRESS AND OTHER OPINIONS.

BOUMANIANS RESUME RESISTANCE.

GREEK NOTE TO THE ALLIES.

General.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE.

LONDON, December 21st.

It was necessary we should make swift and effective answer to Germany's latest mood. As months go by (proceeded the speaker) the cost of the war increases. Our purchases in neutral countries have become more difficult to finance, yet there are thousands of men occupied in industries which consume our wealth at home and do nothing to strengthen our credit abroad. But we have no power to transfer them from employment where they are wasting their strength and our own to employments where they could increase it. We have not even the organisation necessary for utilising them as Volunteers. These are powers we must take, and this is organisation which we must complete. (Cheers.) He pointed in this connection to the difficulty regarding agriculture for want of skilled men, despite the fact that he believed there were hundreds of thousands of people who, if they could be utilised to the best advantage, could produce great quantities of food in this country. In this connection schemes of very great magnitude had been formulated and were in course of being put into operation. They would involve great local organisation throughout the country, and he thought Mr. Asquith would be very satisfied with them when he saw them.

The matter was considered by the war committee of the late Government, who unanimously decided that the time had come for the adoption of the principle of universal national service. The present Government and War Cabinet had unanimously adopted this conclusion. He believed that the plans which have been made would secure to every worker all he had a right to ask for. In order to do this it was proposed to appoint immediately a Director of National Service, to be in charge of both the military and civil side of universal National Service. The civil and military side of the directory would be entirely separate. There would be a military and a civil director responsible to the Director of National Service. The military director would be responsible for recruiting for military service, but as regarded the civilian service it was proposed that the directory of National Service should proceed by the schedule of industries and of services according to their essential character during the war. Certain industries regarded as indispensable, and the departments concerned, would be placed under the Director of National Service for those services. Other services would be rationed in such matters as food, fuel, material, and power. Labour that was set free from non-essential and rationed industries would be available to set free potential soldiers, who were at present exempted from military service, and to increase the available supply of labour for essential services.

This labour would be invited to enrol at once and would be registered as war workers on lines analogous to the existing Munitions and Volunteers, with similar provisions as to rates of pay and separation allowances. He had no doubt that when it was realised how essential to the life of the nation it was that the service of every man should be put to the best use we should secure adequate to the best use of these Volunteers. The Government were taking immediate steps to secure by this means the men they want. The classification of the industries and the invitation to enrol as may be. If it was found impossible to get the numbers required and he hoped it would be possible—they should not hesitate to come to Parliament and ask Parliament to release them from pledges given in other circumstances, and to obtain the necessary power for rendering our plans fully effective. The nation was fighting for its life, and was entitled to the best service of all its sons. (Cheers.)

The Government has been fortunate in inducing the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, to accept the position of Director-General under this scheme, and he would immediately proceed to organise this great new system of enrolment for industrial purposes, and he (the Premier) hoped that, before Parliament resumed its duties in another few weeks, he would be able to report that they had secured a sufficiently large industrial army in order to mobilise the whole labour strength of the country for war purposes. (Cheers.)

THE IRISH QUESTION.

Turning to the Irish question the Premier said he wished, if possible, to remove the misunderstanding between Great Britain and Ireland which had, for centuries, been such a source of misery to the one and embarrassment and weakness to the other. He would have regarded that as a great victory for the Allied forces, as something that would have given strength to the armies and to the Allies. He was convinced now that it was a misunderstanding, partly racial and partly religious. It was to the interest of both to have it removed, but there seemed to have been some evil chance that frustrated every effort made for the achievement of better relations. He had tried once, but did not succeed; but the fault was not entirely on one side. He had felt the whole time that we were moving in an atmosphere of nervous suspicion and distrust pervading of everything and everybody. He was drenched with suspicion of Irishmen by Englishmen, and Englishmen by Irishmen, and worse and most fatal of all, suspicion of Irishmen by Irishmen. It was a quagmire of distrust which clogged the footsteps of progress that was the real enemy of Ireland. If that could be slain he believed it would accomplish an act of reconciliation that would make Ireland greater and Britain greater and would make the United Kingdom and Empire greater than they ever were before. (Cheers.) Speaking for himself and his colleagues, he said they would strive to produce that better feeling which was essential to the solution of the Irish problem. (Cheers.) He asked men of all races and creeds, and faiths to help the Government, not to solve a political question, but to help to do something that would be a real contribution to the winning of the war.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOMINIONS.

After paying a high tribute to the enormous and incalculable services of the Navy, not merely to the Empire, but to the whole of the Allied cause, saying that the war could not have lasted the time it had but for its services, Mr. Lloyd George came to the question of the Dominions. Ministers had repeatedly acknowledged the splendid assistance of the Dominions given of their own free will to the old country in its championship of the cause of humanity. Great ideals of nation, of fair play and justice appealed to the Dominions just as insistently as to Great Britain. The Dominions recognised throughout that the fight was not a selfish one; that the quarrel was not merely European, but that there were great world issues involved wherever their children were as much concerned as ours. The new Government were as full of gratitude as the old for the super-volour which our kinsmen had shown in so many stricken fields, but that was not why he introduced the subject. The reason was that the Government felt that the time had come when the Dominions ought to be more formally consulted as to the progress and course of the war, and as to the steps that ought to be taken to secure a victory and the best method of garnering in those fruits. "We propose, therefore, at an early date, to summon an Imperial Conference to place the whole position before the Dominions, to take counsel with them as to what further action they and we should take together in order to achieve an early and a complete triumph for the ideals they and we have so superbly fought for." (Loud cheers.)

BRITAIN'S RELATIONS WITH HER ALLIES.

The Prime Minister then dealt with Britain's relations with her Allies, and said we had already achieved unity of aim, but when he came to the question of unity of action he still thought there was a good deal left to be desired. He need only deal with the incident of Roumania and each man could spell out for himself what he meant. The enemy had two supreme advantages: They could act on internal lines, and there was one great dominant Power that practically directed the enemy's forces. We had neither of these advantages, therefore we must achieve the same end by other means. The advantages the Allies possessed were advantages which time had improved. No one could say that we had made the best of that time; there had been tardiness of decision and action. Someone had said about Necker that he was like a clock that was always too slow. There was a little of that in the Great Alliance clock. It had stopped at Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Roumania. Before they could take full advantage of the Allies' enormous resources there must be some means of arriving at quicker and readier decisions and carrying them out. (Hear, hear.) He believed that could be done. There must be more consultation—more real consultation—between men who matter in the direction of affairs. There must be less of the feeling that each country has only got its own front to look after. The policy of a common front must be a reality. (Cheers.) The enemy realised this policy, and he believed we must secure it more and more, instead of having overwhelming guns on the one side and bare breasts—gallant breasts—on the other. That was essential for the Allies, and for the curtailment of the period before victory arrived.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ASQUITH.

He would conclude with a personal note. Might he say in all sincerity that it was one of the deepest regrets of his life that he should part from Mr. Asquith. Some of his friends knew how he strove to avert it. For years he had served under Mr. Asquith, and he was proud to say so. He never had a kinder and more indulgent chief. Any faults and temper were entirely his (the speaker's), and he had no doubt he (the speaker) must have been difficult at times. They had differed as men of such different temperaments must necessarily differ, but never had they had a personal quarrel, despite serious differences on policy, and it was with deep, genuine grief he felt it necessary to tender his resignation. But there were moments when personal and party considerations must sink, and if he had paid scant heed to the call of duty during the war it was because he realised from the moment that Prussian cannon hurled death at a peaceable, inoffensive little country that a challenge had been sent to civilisation to decide an issue higher than party, deeper than party, wider than all parties—an issue upon the settlement of which would depend the fate of men in this world for generations, when existing parties would have fallen, like dead leaves on the highway.

THE ISSUES.

These were the issues he wanted to keep in front of the nation, so that we should not falter nor faint in our resolves. (Cheers.) "There is a time in every prolonged and fierce war when in the passion and rage of the conflict men forget the high purpose wherewith they entered it. This is a struggle for international right, international honour, international good faith—the channel along which peace, honour and goodwill must flow amongst men. The embankments laboriously built up by generations of men against barbarism have been broken, and had not the night of Britain passed into the breach Europe would have been inundated with a flood of savagery and unbridled lust of power. (Cheers.) The plain sense of fair play amongst nations, the growth of an international conscience, the protection of the weak against the strong by the stronger, the consciousness that justice has a more powerful backing in the world than greed, the knowledge that any outrage upon fair-dealing between nations, great or small, will meet with prompt and merited chastisement—these constitute the causeway along which humanity was progressing slowly to higher things. The triumph of Prussia would sweep it all away and leave mankind to struggle helpless in the morass. That is why, since this war began, I have known but one political aim—for that I have fought with a single eye—and that is, the rescue of mankind from the most overwhelming catastrophe that has ever yet menaced its well-being. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

PRESS AND OTHER OPINIONS.

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN THE COMMONS.

LONDON, December 20th. Mr. Lloyd George's speech has put a seal of the revival of confidence which was first marked by the Verdun victory. The members of the House of Commons listened throughout with rapt attention and growing exhilaration. The most striking feature of the proceedings was the complete unanimity of all leaders in and out of the Government concerning the nation's attitude. The consensus of the people does not merely accept but acclaim the refusal of the German overtures towards peace, and cherishes the dangers and privations ahead, knowing the enemy has done his worst as regards frightfulness. There is much satisfaction at the absence of recriminations between Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Asquith. The latter's patriotic attitude is eulogised, and it is expected that Mr. Lloyd George's speech will strengthen the position of Mr. Briand towards the critics of the French Ministry.

IN CANADA.

REGINA, December 20th. Sir Robert Borden has sent a message to Mr. Lloyd George, to the effect that Canada will spare no sacrifice to make triumphant the great cause for which the Allies are contending.

GERMANY'S HOPES.

REUTERS' correspondent at New York says high German hopes of peace are evidenced by the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd circulars offering freights "on resumption of our regular service, after peace."

AMERICAN OPINION.

NEW YORK, December 20th. The morning papers agree that Mr. Lloyd George has adroitly drawn the Central Powers into a position where they must show their hands; otherwise the world will be convinced that the peace proposals were an attempt at political trickery. The New York Times says that the Allies have all civilisation at their back when they demand the ending of Prussian militarism as a primary and essential condition of peace. The New York Sun says that there can be no further doubt that the Allies are not in the mood to grasp peace for peace's sake, and that the sooner their steadfastness is understood in Berlin, the brighter will be the prospect of peace.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS' PATRIOTISM.

PARIS, December 19th. A Congress of Socialists has resolved, by ten thousand against four hundred, that no peace proposals with the enemy can be entertained until concrete terms have been offered.

GERMAN PRESS PESSIMISTIC.

AMSTERDAM, December 19th. The German Press is pessimistic on the prospect of peace even by next spring. The Koelnische Zeitung says: "Out with submarines; then no American will be able to prevent us from forcing peace on the enemy."

ITALIAN FEELING.

ROME, December 19th. Speaking in the Chamber, Baron Somino said that the Government was not aware of any specific conditions in the enemy peace proposals, but the boastfulness and insincerity of their preamble had not inspired confidence. He begged the Chamber not to adopt a resolution suggesting that Italy's attitude was different from that of the other Allies. The speech was greeted with an ovation, and the Chamber resolved, by acclamation, to placard it.

FRENCH PREMIER'S TURN.

PARIS, December 19th. Four interpellations and criticisms are awaiting the new Government in the Senate to-morrow, when M. Briand will probably speak on the German peace proposals.

LATEST CABLES.

AN AIR MINISTRY.

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE'S REPORTS.

LONDON, December 21st. It is understood that one of the last acts of the late Government was to transform the Air Board into an Air Ministry, ranking with the Boards of Trade, Agriculture, and Education. The Ministry will consist of a President appointed by His Majesty and Members appointed by Order in Council. The final report of the Committee of Investigation of the Royal Flying Corps generally vindicates the conduct and administration of the corps, pays a tribute to the recent wonderful improvement in efficiency, due to the unremitting labour of the directorate of Military Aeronautics, and not to spasmodic efforts resulting from agitation. It refers to the criticism of a certain machine as ill-founded, and points out that it is the Zepplins in England. It further says that the Admiralty's purchase of American machines and engines at the outbreak of the war was a discouraging experience, which was wisely not repeated. The Committee's chief recommendation is separate equipment from Executive command.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT BILL REJECTED.

PARIS, December 21st. The Council of National Economy has rejected, by 24 votes to 12, the Bill introduced by the Government seeking to authorise the Government to take, by decree, measures necessary for national defence, especially regarding agriculture, industrial output, recruiting labour, and the sale and distribution of commodities, as depriving Parliament of constitutional powers.

ROUMANIAN MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

CABINET WITHDRAW RESIGNATIONS.

JASSY, December 21st. The Ministerial crisis is ended, the Cabinet withdrawing their resignations. General Bratianu has returned to the Army Headquarters.

ROUMANIAN FOOD BOOTY.

AMSTERDAM, December 21st. General Batoeki, visiting Vienna and Budapest to negotiate distribution of the food booty captured from the Roumanians, in an interview said it was big enough to please the most pessimistic.

"THE GERMAN PEACE MANOEUVRE."

FRENCH PREMIER'S OPINION. PARIS, December 20th. In the Senate, M. Briand said nobody had been deceived by the German peace manoeuvre. The Allied concerted reply would inform the Central Powers that it was impossible to take the peace request seriously.

GERMAN AND BRITISH PRISONERS.

QUESTIONS IN THE COMMONS.

LONDON, December 21st. In the House of Commons, Mr. Hope, on behalf of the Foreign Office, replying to Mr. Hunt, said that the Captain of the *Blucher* and an officer belonging to *Lis* had been removed from Downing Hall to Switzerland. With regard to the exchanges of unfit British prisoners from Germany, the responsibility of the selection of the men to be exchanged rested with the Anglo-Swiss and Teuto-Swiss Medical Commissions.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN PUBLICATIONS.

BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE.

THE HAGUE, December 19th. The Foreign Minister has announced that, in reply to his protest against the seizure of German publications destined to India and elsewhere abroad, Great Britain has declared her readiness to come to an understanding enabling Universities and public bodies to obtain German scientific and technical publications.

AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR.

HIS SAFE CONDUCT.

LONDON, December 19th. According to Reuters, safe conduct has been given to Count Tarnowski, the Austrian Ambassador, at the request of the United States, which has accepted all responsibility.

INDIA COUNCIL DRAFTS.

LONDON, December 19th. The Times says it is understood that Indian bankers and others are in negotiation with the India Office with a view to a relaxation of the restrictions on the sale of India Council drafts.

CONDITION OF EGYPT.

GREATLY IMPROVED.

CAIRO, December 19th. The second anniversary of the British Protectorate finds the situation in Egypt everywhere greatly improved, as compared with last year. The machinery of Government is running smoothly, and the people are happy, contented and most prosperous. Trade is flourishing and there are prospects of another bumper surplus at the close of the financial year.

"COMBING" OUT.

DE-BADGING THE UNSKILLED.

LONDON, December 20th. In the House of Commons, Mr. Worthington Evans announced that the Ministry of Munitions had ordered the de-badging of all semi-skilled and unskilled workmen, thus enabling the men to be called up as soon as they could be spared or replaced.

EXCESS PROFITS.

LONDON, December 20th. In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that, up to December 16th, the Treasury had received £73,000,000 sterling in excess profits.

RAILWAY FARES AND SERVICE.

INCREASE AND RESTRICTION.

LONDON, December 20th. In the House of Commons, Mr. Roberts announced that, on January 1st, railway passenger fares would be increased fifty per cent., except in the case of workmen's tickets, and season tickets up to forty miles. There would also be a restriction of the passenger train service.

FRENCH PREMIER.

PARIS, December 20th. In reply to the interpellation of M. Berenger, accusing the Government of lack of foresight and military diplomacy, M. Briand dwelt on the terrible task and great efforts of the Allies, emphasising that Britain's military contribution was far exceeding the original arrangement. He said that Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg's last speech showed that Germany was at bay. The demand for peace was the last bluff she would attempt. It was not merely a sign of weakness, but a stratagem. The Allies' reply would be worthy of their brave soldiers.

ANSWERS HIS CRITICS.

On the motion of M. Clemenceau, the Senate went into secret session.

GERMAN LINER ESCAPES.

AND GOES AGROUND.

COPENHAGEN, December 19th. The German liner *Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm*, which has been sheltering at Valdeoe in the Arctic since 1914, has escaped and steamed inshore, escorted by a Zepplin and two submarines, to the Kattegat. She missed her bearings in a snowstorm and grounded at Samsoe. The ship and cargo are valued at a million sterling.

GERMAN-OWNED BARQUE'S ESCAPE.

VALPARAISO, December 19th. The German-owned barque *Tinto* has escaped from Calbuco, where she was fitted out in suspicious circumstances.

HOLLAND'S ATTITUDE.

ON ARMED MERCHANTMEN.

LONDON, December 19th. In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil said that the Netherlands is the only neutral nation which refuses to admit defensively-armed ships into its ports, but it did not impugn the legality of such arming.

FAMOUS FRENCH AVIATOR KILLED.

LONDON, December 19th. Capt. Beauchamp, the French aerial officer who bombed Essen and Munich, has been killed in an air fight.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

SUCCESSFUL RAIDS.

LONDON, December 21st. General Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué says: "We raided the enemy's lines in the vicinity of Gommeourt and did considerable damage. Also to the north of Arras, where a number of prisoners were captured. The leader of a German patrol, to the north of Neuve Chapelle was killed and his men made prisoners."

FRENCH FRONT.

ARTILLERY DUELS.

PARIS, December 21st. A communiqué states that south of the Somme the enemy engaged in a bombardment of our positions, particularly the Boileau-Santerre, Berny, Pressoire, and Ablancourt sectors. We vigorously replied. There has been intermittent artillery fire elsewhere.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH FRONT.

A BUSY NIGHT.

LONDON, December 20th. General Sir Douglas Haig reports: "The enemy's artillery was particularly active last night in the neighbourhood of Eaucourt l'Abbaye. To-day we carried out a successful bombardment of the lines to the east of Fauquissart."

FRENCH FRONT.

LIVELY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

LONDON, December 20th.

A Paris communiqué states: "There has been lively reciprocal artillery activity on the right bank of the Meuse, particularly in the regions of Bezonvaux, Bois des Cautieres and Chambrettes, but no infantry fighting. There has been intermittent artillery activity elsewhere."

NOTHING IMPORTANT.

LONDON, December 20th. A French communiqué states that there is nothing important to report on the Western front.

THE MEUSE FIGHTING.

GERMANS LOSE AN ARMY CORPS.

PARIS, December 19th. According to a semi-official message, the Germans have lost an Army Corps in the Meuse fighting.

The Balkans.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN REPORT.

ROUMANIANS RESUME RESISTANCE.

LONDON, December 21st. A German evening communiqué says: "The enemy in the most northern part of Dobruja, retiring up till now, has resumed resistance. Strong hostile attacks at the Cerna Loop were repulsed."

EARLIER CABLES.

GREEK CRISIS.

GREEK NOTE TO THE ALLIES.

LONDON, December 20th. Reuters learns that a Greek Government Note to the Allies, yesterday, protested against the landing of Venizelists under the protection of the Allies on the various islands, of which it demanded the restoration. It says the Greek Government has hitherto carried out its promises most satisfactorily.

MACEDONIA.

RAIN AND FOG.

LONDON, December 20th. A French communiqué states that rain and fog are interfering with operations in Macedonia.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

INTENSE FIGHTING.

LONDON, December 20th. A Russian communiqué states: "We repulsed enemy attacks to the south-west of Brody, and also in the region of Paltva, on the left bank of the Dniester. There is intense fighting on our right flank in the Dobruja."

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SUBMARINE PIRACY.

ANOTHER BRITISH CAPTAIN MADE PRISONER.

CORUNNA, December 21st. A submarine escorted a Danish steamer flying the German flag to Finisterre, carrying 40 of the crews of other ships. The Captain of the British steamer, *Marshall*, has been made prisoner. The submarine subsequently pursued two other steamers, and gun-firing was heard.

A GERMAN CLAIM.

TORPEDOED A STEAMER.

LONDON, December 21st. A German official message claims that they torpedoed the steamer *Suffren*, mentioned on the 8th inst., fifty miles north-west of Lisbon, on the 28th November.

FALSE GERMAN REPORT.

CONTRADICTION BY THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY.

LONDON, December 21st. A wireless report of an interview with Herr Zimmerman stated that the German steamer *Kolga* was sunk, that seven perished, and that English submarines steered round the vessel without attempting a rescue.

The British Admiralty has declared that the tradition of the British Navy is sufficient refutation of the statement. British submarines sunk no German ship of the name of *Kolga*.

Africa.

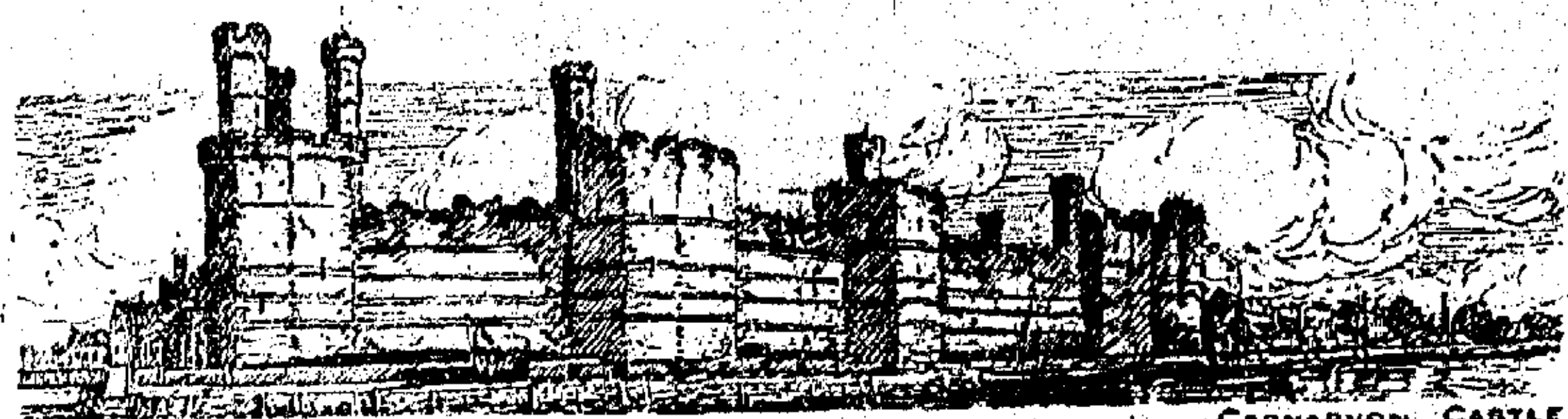
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(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

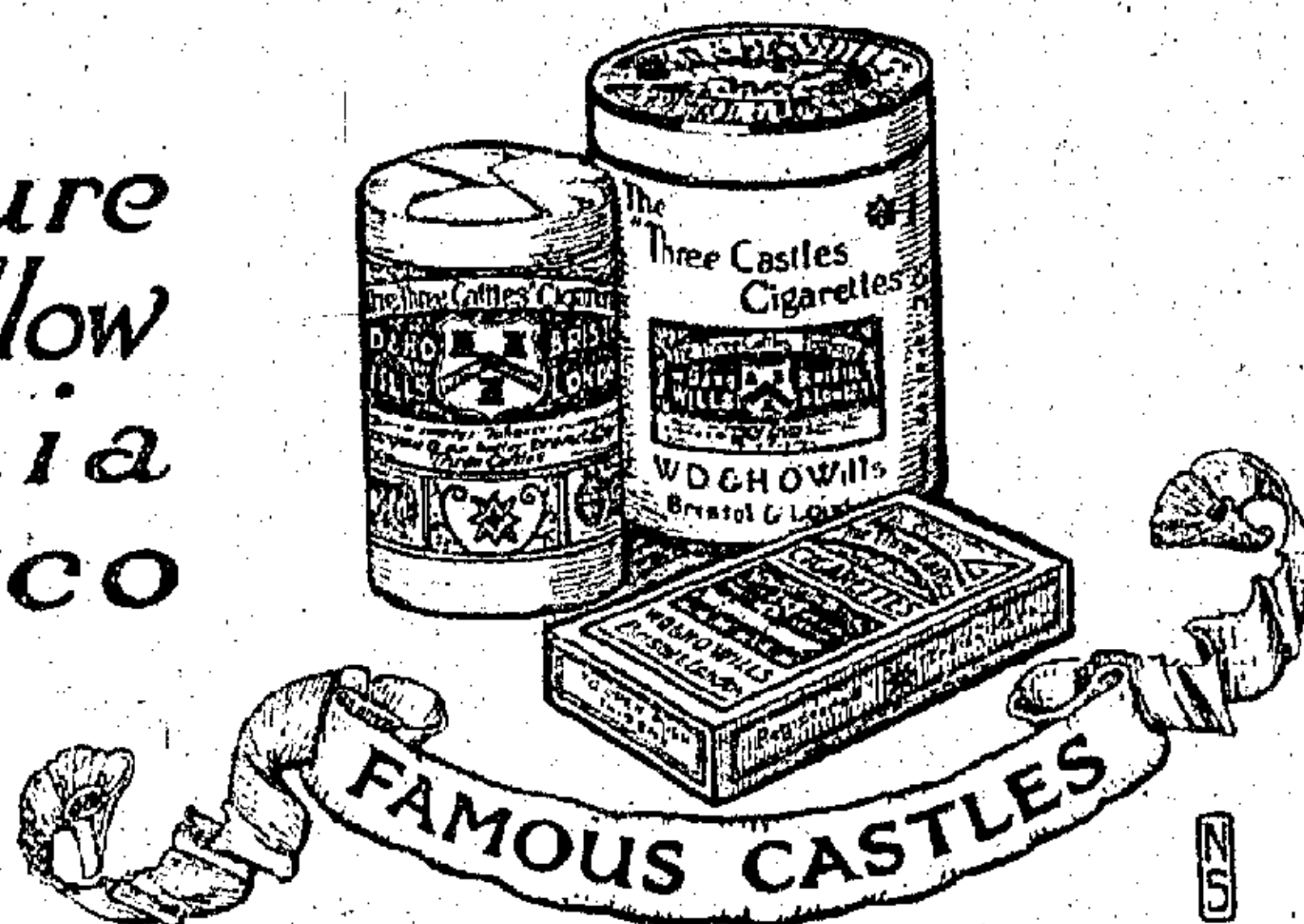
EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

ALLIED SUCCESSES.

LONDON, December 20th. An official message states that General Smuts repulsed strong counter-attacks at Kibata on the 15th inst. and finally ejected a few Germans from our advanced positions, securing an important ridge 3,000 yards to the north-east of Kibata. Our aeroplanes had considerable bombing successes, inflicting appreciable casualties. Elsewhere the situation is unchanged.



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Virginia
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"Three Castles"
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If you smoke a pipe of course you smoke "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT" 1402

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Land of the Mountain and the Flood.

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14-15

THE FIGHT IN THE FOREST.

A PICTURE OF THE ARGONNE.

Some thirty kilometres from Verdun lies the great forest region of the Argonne; it offers the strongest contrast with the open, smiling country round Verdun, which is situated in the midst of gentle rolling slopes, with knolls crowned with trees. The vast forest, on the other hand, is full of a gentle melancholy, which imparts its character to the peasants, a sober and kindly people, given to hospitality. It is a part of France which knows what war is. At Valmy, Kellerman and Dumouriez won the most signal victory of the Revolution over the Prussians; two score years later the Prussians took their revenge by encircling the French at Sedan; they marched through the forests of the Argonne to do it. It was a deplorably wet autumn in 1870, and the forest paths were almost impassable.

It is a strange warfare that is now being waged. For more than a year past, it has preserved the same underground character of sapping and mining. In some sections of the line and the rival trenches are only ten meters apart, and one can almost hear the respiration of the enemy: a thrilling experience.

This trench fighting has been a thousand times described, but in the Argonne it seems to have a special character: the country lends itself to an irregular, guerilla sort of fighting. Even the encampments among the trees have the half-romantic air of Indian wigwams. We have swung back to the days of Fenimore Cooper and his Redskins. War has come to such close grips, hereabouts, that our chameleon is told not to sound his horn for fear of attracting the attention of the watchful enemy a few hundred metres away. Guns boom intermittently; we are in the midst of one of those interminable and desultory actions, which add a few yards daily to the dead dumb area of waste. Perhaps the most striking picture of the destructiveness of war, outside the ruined villages, which still bear witness to the devilish activity of the Germans, is seen in the appearance of the forest. Not a leaf remains in the No Man's Land between the trenches—nothing but the frozen stumps and skeletons of trees, and this devastated tract, bare as any desert, fit meeting place for crows, extends a long way back, a sad and silent sea in the midst of beautiful woodland.

DOWN IN THE DEPTHS.

We descend gingerly into an under-ground trench, and the tallest of the party bends double to escape the dripping roof. It is a wonderful work of art, a monument of industry. Here are block houses, there an observatory, and there again the snug office of the commandant, ornamented with sketches from the comic Press. A machine-gun embrasure gives us a view of the country-side as we stand beside the attentive guardian. The Germans are there behind the first-line trench—they lay close behind, in fact.

The "trench" would have taken us closer still, but an embranchment leads us to the outer air, where we stand behind a sand-bagged parapet, looking through a spy-hole upon the German lines: a moment of some sensation, for a shell whistles overhead, and even the tried campaigner of the group "ducks" with precautionary instinct. Then an aeroplane appears, warily, in the clouds. Shrapnel flies upward—German sparks from the anvil of war—in a vain effort to reach it. Doubtless each one of us is glad of the steel helmet which he has exchanged for his civilian headgear; it is a protection against leaden rain.

Farther back, amongst the woods, in deep valleys and ravines with vistas of deep-wooded slopes with a rich profusion of bracken-enchanting country—one learned how adequate was the system of defence. Wire work and trenches, cunningly hidden guns, observation posts and systems, whereby the enemy is prevented from surprise, reveal the patient ingenuity of the French, and explain, also how they have kept watch and ward there many weary months. From a convenient post, through glasses, we note the enemy positions, now farther off, and villages in the plain, once fair and charming to look upon, are seared and tortured. "You see that solitary house there?" asks our guide, pointing to four walls pathetically prominent against a mocking background of pleasant green, "that is all that is left of the village of S—. There, to your right, is another township scarcely existing any more." Such is the toll, the tragedy of war.

LIGHT SIDE OF WAR.

But there is another and less painful side. It is represented by the camaraderie and social talents of the men. They are playing cards, comfortable and happy in the dug-outs, as we pass. Under the trees a little further down the slope are tables spread for the mid-day meal—a sign that even war has its compensations. The dug-outs themselves, carved out of the hillside, are models of the art of adaptation. The furniture is rude but adequate, and the light flickers in a kindly stream through the glass-pane windows. "Alas, they are empty!" observed our cicerone. It was the homely "note," welcome after the dire aspects of war—as homely as the little garrets before some of these improvised doors, as homely as the huts that lived the life of pampered pensioners in the wired seclusion of the colonel's "yard." Thus war in the Argonne pursues its strange, implacable way.

The students of St. Andrew's University, both at St. Andrew's and Dundee, have unanimously elected Sir Douglas Haig, Commander of the British Force in France, to the Rectorship of the University for the ensuing three years. Sir Douglas Haig is a native of Fife, and in his youth attended Clifton School, St. Andrew's.

NO MAN'S LAND.

BY NIGHT AND DAY.

(BY F. A. MCKENZIE, THE WELL-KNOWN WAR CORRESPONDENT.)

"What!" said the Colonel incredulously. "You have never been in No Man's Land! Come now, that's too bad. Go with Captain — to-night. And the Colonel proceeded to take his turn in the game of throwing rings on iron nails, putting out of the satanaggeous wall, in which he was handsomely beaten by a young subaltern."

It was the brief pause before dinner. German shells were making the evening a wot a short way behind us. And Hun had been rather more active than usual sending quite a number of "sausages"—little playthings each containing from 60lb. to 220lb. of high explosive—around our front lines, while his heavier guns had been at work farther back. "Fritz is peeved to-night," said the Major. "The average soldier will not more admit that enemy artillery fire is heavier than the average officer in a liner would admit that the sea was rough."

The game over, we moved on to the front. The walk through the communicating trenches is always wearisome. You twist and double and take twenty minutes to cover a distance that you could cover in five minutes on the surface. When we had done half the journey we came to a bit of a wood. "It's four minutes if we go through this wood and sixteen minutes if we go round by the trenches," said my guide. "Let us rush it. If you hear a click, drop down like a streak of greased lightning and lie low."

There was still sufficient daylight for one to take in the appearance of the front lines themselves. They were on a very low level, where trenches were impossible, so that all we could have was a very substantial parapet of sandbags to protect us from the enemy fire. To-night fortunately was dry. On wet days the little stream that ran through our position rose and the ground became one slithering, slipping slough. Here in the first winter our boys fought up to their middles in mud, and even now, with all our precautions and drainage and improvements in trench life, nothing could make this particular spot anything but a hell hole. There is some comfort and sense of security in a decent, well-drained trench. There is none behind a raised parapet, when you know that the enemy occupy all the hill positions around and that you are like a rat in a pit.

Darkness came on. There were the rounds to be made and minute instructions to be conveyed to every corporal's guard. There was no need of lights to show us the way. The German flares steadily ascending in a semi-circle around, each made for a time its own immediate neighbourhood as bright as daylight. The trench mortars had ceased their work, but the flares were apparently flaring some attempt at attack on our part, for they maintained an unusually heavy rifle fire, constantly sweeping our parapets. "Here we are," said the Captain, pointing to a little tunnel under one part of the parapet. "Go quietly, keep low, and when the flares go up put your faces down so that they cannot see your flesh. White flesh stands out." We crawled on our hands and knees through the tunnel, and then we were in No Man's Land itself.

I had often studied No Man's Land from the trenches. The desolate strip between our lines and the German lines varies in width from fifteen yards to half a mile. A few hours before I had been at one spot on our front where the Germans were fifteen yards away. We occupied one small side of a crater; they occupied the other. On our side the bombers stood always ready, waiting for the first sound of real activity to turn the other side into a shambles. Doubtless over the way *Messieurs les Boches* waited in similar fashion for us.

This space is blocked on either side by great masses of wire entanglements, with lanes running through them—carefully guarded lanes, safe for our own men, but with a machine-gun waiting for the first of the enemy who showed his nose. The lush weeds grow coarsely on a soil enriched by the blood of many brave men. Often enough on the hotter parts of the line those who have fallen and died have to lie unburied in some shell hole for days, sometimes weeks, until their comrades can go to them. No Man's Land! The scene of thousands of desperate hopes, of thousands of brave raids and solitary heroisms; the field, too often the grave, of the Empire's best.

Creeping along the narrow gully it took an effort of imagination to realize where one was. It was pitch-dark. Our way was obstructed by wires. We had to move with caution, for noise would have brought a machine-gun on us and we had now no parapet to keep the bullets back. There came a flare. Down went our heads, and when the light of the flare had died away the darkness seemed all the more intense. Flare followed flare, and while the flares continued there was nothing to be done but to lie absolutely still.

Soon we reached the observation post, where three or four of our men were lying low, listening intently for any sound of enemy approach. Captain — gave some whispered instructions to the corporal and his men. "You quite understand," he said, "that if the Germans come along to-night you are not to stay here and fight them. All you have to do is to give the alarm and hurry back behind the parapet. You're not to be fools and throw yourselves away for nothing. Now do not forget. That is an order. If you see them coming, fall back as quickly as ever you can."

Beyond the observation post our men were testing the wires and were patrolling close to the German lines. Some Germans, we knew, were probably patrolling close to us. "Lie low. Keep your ears open. Don't make any sound."

One listened to the noises. Chief among these was the rifle-fire bullets from near to hand, sounding like the crack of a whip overhead, bullets fired from farther away having a distinct ping. Then came the kick of the machine-guns that

(Continued at foot of next column.)

ITALY OVERSEAS.

FUTURE EMPIRE OF KING VICTOR.

Discussing the future of Asia Minor with evident reference to the British landing at Alexandria, the Italian newspaper *Idea Nazionale* publishes the following:

The Solonika landing constitutes a new title to the Imperial claims of Italy, and the discussion is now limited solely to the practical convenience of annexing a zone in Asia Minor, which extends further to the North, or a zone further to the East.

There is no doubt that Italy will receive the district between Smyrna and Mersina, stretching inland to the Baghdad line. The present problem is whether, as some argue, this zone should include on the East the Gulf of Alexandria, i.e., the semi-circle from the Bay of Aynas to the promontory of Ras el Kanir, bounded inland by the Adana-Aleppo Railway; or whether, as others suggest, it should extend north of Smyrna and include the shores of the Aegean and the Asiatic banks of the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora as far as the Bosphorus. The defect of this last suggestion is that it does not define properly the internal frontiers of the district of Smyrna. The first solution is primarily of economic importance: the importance of the second, on the other hand, is primarily political.

(1.)—The annexation of Alexandria would mean a direct penetration of the East. Alexandria can be connected by a mere 500 kilometres of rail almost directly with the Baghdad line, and thus tap the vast resources of Mesopotamia. The entire trade of the Near East would inevitably flow to this port. Mesopotamia's natural port is clearly Alexandria, and Italy would become the maritime prolongation of the Baghdad line. But supposing Alexandria were given to England, who is already mistress of Mesopotamia, she would then possess the two outlets and the entire railway development of all the territory between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. With her economic resources, with her fleet, with the possession of Cyprus and of Egypt, she would rapidly gain the most absolute monopoly of all the ways to the East, leaving only to France the Hejaz trade. Under these circumstances, the Baghdad line, which Italy would possess the stretch between Adana and Afkankharissar, would lose its transcontinental value and become a mere artery for the traffic of Asia Minor and for rapid communications with Central Europe, and a mere competitor of the Northern Anatolian Railway.

(2.)—The importance of the second solution is political. It would give Italy the joint dominion of the Near East, removing them from the monopoly of a stronger State. In this solution the convenience of an equilibrium between the victorious Allies would have more weight than Italy's interests and rights.

It is evident that these merely political advantages would not compensate for the loss of Alexandria, with which Italy would for the first time gain a joint rule over the great roads of the world. If, therefore the political needs of the situation compelled her to accept this second solution, she ought to be given (1) the territory as far as below Samsat with the Baghdad railroads, at Lamed and Haidar-Pasha; (2) the main Anatolian railway *via* Eskishehr and Angora as far as below Sivans in order to be able to absorb the trade of Cappadocia.

M.P.s. IMPRESSIONS OF FRANCE.

Mr. Arthur Lynch, M.P., who has been in France several times during the war, has just returned from a fortnight's visit. "I never saw French people so unanimous and so determined," he says. "Those who have lost sons, women who have lost husbands, old people who have lost several members of their family, are absolutely unbroken, and as determined as the rest to see the thing out to a proper conclusion. The French have the sentiment that it would be better to be dead than have Germany dominate France, or weigh upon the spirits as Germany has done during the last forty years. They are also more confident at the present time than I have ever known them."

broke out with their devil's tattoo every few minutes, and the crack of the flare as it was fired from its clumsy pistol into the heavens. Now an alarm arose a little farther down the line. A supple German sentry had been startled by something. The machine-guns burst out and the rifle-fire grew heavy, only to die away in a few minutes.

Sometimes, even in this wild night shooting, the bullets find their billets. Twice that night after we returned behind the parapets men came to report casualties. Our corporal in No Man's Land had been caught by a bullet in the stomach. A private behind the parapet, raising his head for a moment, had been struck down by a bullet in the eye.

"Soon after daylight the Major came on his rounds. I was to join him. "You ought to see No Man's Land in day time," he said, and so we went into it again. It was very different now. The rifle-firing had ceased and there was comparative quiet. The surroundings that had seemed so gloomy and mysterious in the darkness looked now nothing but a bit of coarse and forsaken countryside, with a lot of barbed wire spread over it. When we got a little way into it I turned to note the front of our own trenches. I knew them well from behind, I did not recognise them from the front. For the earth over the sandbags had been covered during the summer by a growth of grass. Branches of trees, and bushes—bare bushes with every leaf torn off by shell fragments—made the illusion complete. I seemed to be looking at a slightly rising country ridge.

We moved along No Man's Land in another direction. We could hear the sound of voices, German soldiers talking in their trenches over their morning meal. And then there came a harsher, harder, under note. It was one of our own guns. The morning's artillery fire had opened. The new day's work had begun—*Daily Mail*.

DEMobilIZATION OF THE ARMY.

NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.

The complexity of transferring each of the 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 soldiers into a niche in our industrial life which will enable him to exercise his skill for the national benefit, as well as for his own advantage, is most obvious. The correct solution must greatly affect the prosperity of the people, and should therefore be tackled with statesmanlike breadth of view, completeness, and the greatest care. Where trades are federated, as in the case of shipbuilding, engineering, textiles and mining, the employers' federations ought to be set to work, in association with trade unions, to prepare lists of men now in the army for whom positions could be found on the attainment of peace at work which would immediately conduce to the establishment of industrial equilibrium.

No difficulty need be anticipated regarding the extent of employment available, nor the possibility of unskilled or partly skilled or female labour being displaced, says *Engineering*. The immense wastage of 27 months of warfare has to be made up, and therefore in practically all industries there will be experienced such a demand for labour as will more than absorb the supply consequent on the demobilization of the army. It is a question rather of effectively disposing of this labour to the best advantage from the individual and national points of view. With the lists of suitable workers prepared by employers' federations and trade unions, the army authorities could quickly discover the men, and arrange for their passage direct from the front to the bench, so that there would be no delay. On the other hand, there would be the extreme satisfaction on the part of each unit of the army in finding national recognition of its duty to place him in a position to earn his living, in better circumstances, we hope, than in the past.

RIGHT AND WRONG METHODS.

Objection might be taken to the difficulty of this procedure in the army, and we are glad to see that such an authority as Major General S. S. Long, C.B., who occupied the important position of Director of Supplies and Transport, has met such possible objection with logical clearness. Anticipating the view that brigades or divisions will require to be maintained at their service strength, and that the withdrawal of a number of men from each would tend to disorganization, he points out that day by day a large number of men from one division or another is *hors de combat* owing to casualties, and that those responsible for the maintenance of such divisions have every day practice in keeping them up to full strength. Major-General Long, in his article in the "Nineteenth Century" and after treats the subject of "right and wrong methods of demobilization" on broad lines, somewhat corresponding to those we have indicated, and from his service experience, he evolves a definite procedure by the army authorities.

In order to enable individuals who are chosen for their adaptability to meet immediate peace requirements in the factory, he suggests that the document of discharge of each soldier might take the form of a little book with perforated pages. There would be given in duplicate an authority, signed by the demobilization official, ordering the man's release with the group bearing the same number as that with which the document is stamped. This would be retained by the man's commanding officer, while the duplicate would be held by the soldier, to be produced at any time to show that he had been completely discharged from the army. There would also be in the booklet a warrant entitling the man to a free railway pass to the place named thereon, which would be his home where employment awaited him. Another page would contain a warrant for a sovereign to be cashed by the military authorities at the front, so that the man might have money for food while on his journey. Four other similar warrants, each for a sovereign, are to be included, these to be payable, by the post office of the town to which the man is proceeding, at intervals of one week on and after the dates named.

Although it is a small detail, we would suggest that the first warrant should be payable only on the date, in order that the worker would make due haste to reach his destination. He would carry his arms, equipment and clothing with him, and hand these in at the nearest military centre to his home, getting a receipt in duplicate, one to be retained and the other to be posted to the depot of his unit. The military authorities should be responsible for sending the man in due course his discharge certificates, army character, etc., and the balance of his pay. This seems a fairly reasonable method of procedure.

BULGARIA'S DICTATOR.

KING FERDINAND GOVERNED BY MACKENSEN.

News received in Petrograd from private sources in Bulgaria indicates, says a Central News telegram, that Mackensen has now assumed what can only be regarded as an absolute dictatorship over the Bulgarian Government and people. King Ferdinand no longer has any real control over the army, or even over political affairs. While these methods may be very satisfactory from the purely military point of view, it is evident that the Bulgarian people are by no means content, and there are continual disturbances, especially among the peasantry, whose hatred of the Germans is every day becoming more marked.

One of the standing grievances against the Germans is their complete disregard of the sufferings of their Bulgarian allies, and a small illustration of the German method is seen in the refusal of Mackensen to permit proper means of defence to be adopted at Sofia against the Allied air raids, which have already caused great damage.

The German theory is everywhere exemplified—that Mackensen has been sent to defeat the enemy, and not to help the Bulgarians.

GERMANY'S TRAP FOR THE POLES.

EXPOSED BY HERR HARDEN.

Maximilian Harden has picked and caused to vanish into thin air the Polish independence bubble. With his favourite weapon, the rapier of irony, he has pierced it for the hollow thing it is. Very deftly it is done. Ostensibly the whole issue of November 13th of his journal *Zukunft* is devoted to a discussion of "The German Stage." Then, without saying outright that the Warsaw performance is simply a piece of play-acting, he devotes the first three pages to the Polish independence declaration, all under the title-line "The German Stage." With sheer effrontery he points out that nothing more has happened than that the two Kaisers have expressed their "wishes," recalls from history similar proclamations of army commanders that remained only proclamations, and finally asserts that if ever the Emperor's wishes come to fulfilment public discussion by Germany will be demanded before those wishes are translated into fact.

On the immediate political effect of the proclamation Harden is more serious. Regarding it as an intimation that the rumours of a separate peace with Russia are confined, he says it will be regarded by Germany's enemies as a declaration of what may be called regardless submarine war against Russia, and as such will receive a passionate reply. Quotations from this amazing article are—

"A wish has been expressed which can only be fulfilled with the triumphal victory of the German cause, only after a victory which allows the two Emperors to dictate the conditions of peace. That the two Emperors on November 6th had firm confidence in such a peace will rejoice many a heart. It is their right to speak openly their confidence and their wishes. Article 17 of the Constitution of the German Empire says the regulations and orders of the Empire are issued in the name of the Emperor, and need for their effectiveness the countersign of the Imperial Chancellor, who thereby takes over the responsibility. Here it is not a question of regulations or orders. The countersign can be left out, and to me it is unjustified that the Government should be blamed for having sent home the Reichstag, strong parties in which might have expressed some objections to the 'wishes' of the Emperors. Officially the allied Central Governments have nothing at all to do with this expression of a wish. It has no effect at all yet. It leaves the Constitution as it is, and only indicates what would result if the wishes of the Kaisers could also decide. In the summer of 1866 we Prussian upper command in a proclamation expressed its regard for the historical and national rights of the kingdom of Bohemia, and said:—Should our cause be victorious, then the Bohemians and Magyars can take advantage of the moment and realize their national desires." At the desire of the Prussian party, Lubienski demanded in the Prussian Diet that what had been promised to Bohemia should also be given to Poland. Bismarck replied that he did not enter into the proposal because he did not regard the proclamation of the commanding general in the enemy's country as a suitable document to serve as the foundation for discussions of constitutions. This was also the case in regard to the proclamation of a Prussian general in September, 1914, when he said to the Poles, 'Rise up and with me drive the Russian barbarians who enslave you from your beautiful country, which shall again receive its political and religious freedom. That is the will of my Almighty Emperor. Given in the Kingdom of Poland.'

"Now this will speak again with a raised voice. Also in November, 1914, the Poles, after the Russian promise of future self-government, offered an address of acknowledgment to the Grand Duke Nicholas, in which they said, 'In this war the defeat of the Germany is our victory. In each of us there lives only one will, to break the German power and to unite Poland under Russia's sceptre.' That this will has disappeared 'hope' the two Kaisers. In this chapter about the second Prussian King Treitschke says, 'Neither in Poland nor in Berlin was it recognized that Polish freedom was anything else than foreign dominion over millions of Slav, Lithuanian, Jewish and Volhynian subjects who had nothing in common with their masters. Austria, inwardly related to the Catholic State of nobles allied with it for centuries, hoped in a strengthened Polish Empire to find cover for itself against, at the same time, Russia and Prussia. Prussia, on the contrary, only had to fear from a reviving of the Polish power the greatest danger of the German Vistula territories.' That was once upon a time. Now, it seems, new hopes are coming into bloom. The rumours of a separate peace with Russia have been confined. For the remembrance of centuries of savage fighting will prevent any Russia from ever agreeing to a kingdom of Poland which 'regulates' the formation, training and leadership of its army in co-operation with Germany and Austria-Hungary. The proclamation of the Governor goes to show that the fighting will be continued until the Tsar and the Duma have consented to the inevitable. It is looked upon by our enemies as an announcement which we might call 'regardless submarine war' against Russia, and will awaken only a passionate reply. Should the Emperors' wish at some time come to fulfilment, the German people and Parliament, and especially the Prussian Diet and Press, will procure for themselves a hearing, and stand firmly upon their right to co-operation. There is really no ground for grumbling now."

With which nonchalant but expressive gesture, Herr Harden proceeds to discuss the German stage.

NEW "STATE" REPUTATION.
A considerable number of Polish refugees reside in Switzerland. While a

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE WORLD'S CREDITOR NATION.

U.S.A. AFTER THE WAR.

On returning from Europe to New York recently, H. P. Davidson, a partner in the Morgan firm, made interesting statements bearing on the growing position of the United States, "after the war," as a creditor of European nations. He noted particularly, that, in meeting the emergency suddenly thrust upon them, not only in organizing and training the armies needed to resist a force already fully organized, but in turning their whole industrial and commercial power to provide arms and supplies for armies, Britain and France had to depend largely on using their financial resources and their credit in order to draw supplies from other countries. Except for their ability to accomplish this they would have been speedily overwhelmed.

It was Britain's command of the seas, combined with her accumulated wealth, that saved both her and her allies from early destruction. A writer in *The Journal of Commerce*, commenting on Mr. Davidson's visit to Europe being connected with French and English loans to be placed in America, says—

"What we are especially considering now is the financial results for this nation when those of Europe are done with this destructive and exhausting warfare. We have been enabled to profit by it immensely, though in a way to make life harder for some of our people while adding to the wealth of others. We have been able to produce on an increasing scale all manner of supplies for the combatants and to dispose of them at a large profit. We have thereby paid off a large volume of outstanding foreign business indebtedness in commercial and corporate loans. We have drawn back the securities upon which we were paying interest and dividends, with the products of our own industry, and have, besides, accumulated a large store of the gold of other countries. Besides all that, we have been making business loans to them out of our gains, taking their securities and receiving income from them. We have even loaned to their Governments and taken their bonds upon which they will have interest to pay and which ultimately they will have to redeem."

"Here is where the grievance of Germany and her allies chiefly lies. All this help goes to her enemies, simply because they are in a position to secure it and she is not. It does not come from any violation or disregard of neutrality, but as a result of its duties and the circumstances which give one belligerent an advantage over the other. The after-war effect economically and financially will not be materially different from what it would have been if the other belligerents had possessed this advantage or it had been divided between them, though the way it has happened has been safer for us. However, the inevitable result is going to be that the United States will become a creditor nation instead of a debtor."

small number of them were at first deceived by the manifesto creating the alleged self-governing kingdom of Poland, by far the larger part now realize that it is only another German masquerade to hide a violation of the law of nations and throw dust in the eyes of the neutral Powers. The urgent appeal to Poles to constitute a national army under the command of German and Austrian officers, and, of course, to fight against their own countrymen at the Russian front, have opened the eyes of everyone, and, after holding several largely attended meetings in different parts of Switzerland, one of the most representative gatherings, composed of Poles from Galicia, Posen, and Silesia, as well as Poles from Warsaw and other parts of Prussian Poland, has signed the following appeal:—

"The undersigned Poles from every part of Poland, residing abroad, consider it a national duty to declare in their own behalf, as well as in the name of their compatriots who are prevented from giving free expression to their opinion, that they consider the Polish nation entitled to govern itself, but as one and an indivisible nation. Poland's aspirations to be constituted into an autonomous State comprise all three regions of Poland, and cannot be satisfied without a union of all Poles; hope that this union will be effected as a consequence of this war the programme of which is the liberty and independence of nations. The announcement of the constitution of a Polish State, formed exclusively of territories now occupied by Austria and Germany, which are only one part of Poland, not only fails to satisfy our national aspirations, but is tantamount to another partition of Poland. For inasmuch as Germany and Austria divide the forces of our nation, they condemn it to future impotence and make it only an instrument of their policy. Without discussing the alleged guarantees promised by the Central Empires as to the future condition and existence of the Polish State, of which they speak only as a State dependent upon themselves, Germany and Austria ask Poles to constitute an army. This army is to be subjected as an auxiliary force to the belligerent armies of Germany and Austria, and to fight the battles of Austria and Germany, not those of Poland. The real purpose is self-evident; it is to violate the law of nations. The responsibility for this violation falls upon the Central Powers. We detect in this proceeding on the part of Germany and Austria nothing but the beginning of further misfortunes for our country and from the political point of view, if it were to succeed, another partition of Poland."

This manifesto is followed by the signatures of some thirty well-known Poles residing in Switzerland, and represents almost the unanimous opinion of all Polish refugees. They take the view that by their declaration of the annexation of the new kingdom of Poland to the two Central Empires, Germany and Austria simply proceed under a thin-veiled form, as the above appeal says, to another partition of Poland.

IRELAND'S ELIGIBLE MEN.

OFFICIAL ESTIMATE, 1911, 239.

From a "statement giving particulars regarding men of military age in Ireland," issued on November 15th, it appears that, according to the estimate of the Irish Registrar-General, the number of men actually available for service is 101,239. This figure is arrived at as follows:—

At the date of the National Register (August 15th, 1915) the total number of men of military age was 547,827. Of these, the Registrar-General estimates that 245,585 are indispensable for agriculture and industry. Then there have to be deducted the 33,221 men who joined the forces between the date of the register and October 15th last. Of the remainder 107,462, or 40 per cent., are estimated to be physically unfit. The figures therefore work out thus:—

Total men of military age 547,827
Deduct—Indispensables 245,585
Joined the Forces 33,221
Physically unfit 107,462

Available for service 161,239

It is pointed out that in estimating the number of the men who are regarded as indispensable for agriculture, the Registrar-General has taken into consideration the report of October, 1915, as to men available for military service in England and Wales, and the rules laid down by the Board of Agriculture and the War Office. His estimate assumes that all the farmers and one-half of the men returned as farmers' sons and labourers will be indispensable. Medical practitioners, men of military age engaged in railways, iron and steel, and explosive and chemical works, and a moiety of those coming under the heading "Public Administration and Professions," have been considered indispensable. In the appended table, particulars regarding the men of military age are given for each province and for the Dublin Metropolitan Police district:—

Total of military age	Considered Indispensable	Physically Unfit	Available for service
Ulster 139,477	79,214	30,136	45,205
Munster 139,637	59,939	28,405	42,742
Leinster 101,936	48,409	20,544	30,915
Connaught 81,292	45,717	13,669	20,504

Total (excluding Dublin) 489,442 231,279 92,844 139,269
Dublin area (estimate) 58,385 14,596 14,048 21,970

Total of Ireland 547,827 245,875 107,492 161,239

The number of men of military age given for the Dublin district is an estimate based on the figures of the census of 1911, after deducting 14,288 men who joined His Majesty's Forces between the outbreak of the war and the date of the National Register.

A statement is added showing the numbers of men from the four provinces and the Dublin area who joined the Forces from the outbreak of war to October 15th last. The total for Ireland is 130,241. Below are the figures, together with details of the enlistments between the date of the National Register and the middle of last month:—

	Enlisted since August, 1915	Enlisted since outbreak war
Ulster 14,922	69,674	
Munster 5,431	21,079	
Leinster 4,165	16,638	
Connaught 1,509	5,440	

Total (excluding Dublin) 26,950 108,829
Dublin area 7,171 21,412

Total Ireland 33,221 130,241

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